Confronting the “Deal of the Century” from a US perspective

Grant F. Smith, Director
Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy
November 8, 2019
Gallup 2001-2018 results: “In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?”

1 Source: The Gallup Organization

Gallup 2001-2018 results: “In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?”
Comparing Pew & Gallup “sympathy” questions

Gallup & Pew 2001-2018 results: “In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Israelis</th>
<th>Palestinians</th>
<th>Neither/both/no opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gallup</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pew</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Though aid to Israel has both supporters and detractors, overall U.S. public support for Israel remains strong. According to a February 2011 Gallup poll that measured Americans’ sympathies toward the disputants in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a near record-high 63% said their sympathies lie more with the Israelis...." "There is less specific public polling data on support for aid to Israel."
2018
IRmep poll through Google Surveys: “In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?”

No Opinion - 51.1%
Israelis - 20.7%
Both - 10.5%
Neither - 9.7%
Palestinians - 8.0%

https://www.irmep.org/polls/content/04112018_sympathy.asp
Why Gallup Overstates American Sympathy for Israel

False claims and outdated methodologies fuel policy disasters

by Grant Smith / April 18, 2018

Pollster Gallup has claimed since the year 2001 that the majority of Americans (averaging 59% between 2001–2018) hold much greater sympathy for Israelis than for Palestinians (averaging 17%) “in the Middle East situation.” Gallup releases its yearly results with titillating headlines, such as “Americans Remain Staunchly in Israel’s Corner” (2018 poll) and ”Israel Maintains Positive Image in U.S.” (2017 poll).

Gallup’s results are uncritically amplified in mainstream and Israel partisan news outlets as the single most reliable indicator of Israel’s ongoing high standing among Americans. Gallup also combines “sympathy” with other
2019
IRmep poll through Google Surveys: “In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?”

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>No Opinion</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israelis</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestinians</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
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https://www.irmep.org/polls/content/03182019_sympathy.asp
There is no need to use “sympathy” as a proxy for “American support for aid to Israel” because when directly asked, majorities clearly think it’s “too much.”

https://www.irmep.org/polls/default.asp
Six in Ten Americans Say U.S. Gives “Too Much” Aid to Israel...
The first IRmea question was phrased: "The U.S. gives Israel over $3 billion ... The IRmea survey report, "American Public Opinion on U.S. Aid to Israel," with ...

American Public Opinion About U.S. Aid to Israel and Other ...
https://www.wrmea.org › 017-may › american-public-opinion-about-u-s-a...▼
Washington Report on Middle East Affairs › The Israel Lobby and American Policy › March 24, 2017. Grant Smith: American Public Opinion About U.S. Aid to ...

American Public Opinion Toward Israel: An Overview
https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org › american-public-opinion-toward-isr...▼
Mar 19, 2019 - Support for Israel is not restricted to the Jewish community. Americans of all ages, races and religions sympathize with Israel. This support is ...
On March 28, Gallup admits “sympathy” polls are biased

• "...the priming effect of asking country favorability appears to push people toward sympathizing with Israel rather than expressing no opinion (or not taking a side).”

• Gallup verified internally that the majority of Americans do not sympathize with Israel in a unpublished Gallup polling "experiment" conducted February 12-28.

Pew has also stopped fielding and interpreting its “sympathy” questions and phone polling
July 2019 IRmep Poll

“If you were expelled & resettled into a resource restricted area, would you fight to return or forfeit legal claims for a new life under a promised economic development plan?”

IRmep Polls, 1,450 U.S. Adults fielded through Google Surveys on July 11-21, 2019.
Israel advocate economic policy makers inside Virginia government

• VIAB is part of the State Government
  • Formerly Office of the Governor
  • Now the state assembly
• Four designated BOD members from leadership of state Jewish federations.
• Board membership has given $1.5 million in campaign contributions.
• Long term BOD member “service.”
• VIAB deploy “big donors” to push projects.
• Rest of BOD mostly drawn from the state Israel advocacy organizations and advocates.
Virginians have been on the receiving end of a VIAB “Deal of the Century Lite” economic plan promises

- Jobs and economic development
- Key assumption: That Israeli companies are inherently market leading innovators that can succeed anywhere.
- Virginia should feel privileged to receive them.
- Beneficial academic exchanges via MOUs with Virginia colleges and universities.
Actual Results: Ongoing predation and systematized corruption:

- Secrecy to hide beneficial owners/code names
  - “Project Jonah, Project Turbine, Project Biodiesel”

- Draining and defrauding the billion-dollar Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund, state and counties.

- State subsidized Israeli companies geared to put Virginia and U.S. innovators out of business.
  - AquaMaof targeting Blue Ridge Aquaculture, a socially conscious market leader.
  - Sabra Dipping Company vs Cedars

- Tapping Pentagon classified information while delivering out of spec products to soldiers.

- Self dealing and funneling the “cream” of subsidized businesses to insiders, while endlessly touting non-existent “milk” to Virginians.
The predation and corruption has been ongoing, bringing in:

• Israeli companies heavily involved in supporting the Israeli military
  • Strauss Group
  • Oran Safety Glass
• Israeli companies heavily involved in illegal settlement activities - LLCs
  • Alony Hetz
  • Energix
• An MOU that turns Virginia Tech into Sabra Dipping Company’s marketing division, displacing resources formerly devoted to its own tech portfolio.
Cumulative Virginia trade deficit in goods with Israel - actual and forecast
Virginia Coalition for Human Rights
Virginia Israel Advisory Board Campaign

From September 25 through October 5, 2018, the Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR) chartered an unprecedented state-level public opinion poll. This came after disturbing revelations surfaced about the Virginia Israel Advisory Board (VIAB) from a 2018 Virginia Freedom of Information Act response, which provided VCHR with a collection of relevant documents.

The bar graph below summarizes the outcome of the poll.

Since Virginia had a $500 million trade deficit with Israel in 2017, Virginia taxpayers SHOULD NOT continue to subsidize Israeli business projects in the Commonwealth.

- Agree: 38.10%
- Neutral: 32.70%
- Disagree: 29.20%

https://vchr.org/viab.html
Who really influences policy in America?

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Virginia Campaign Contributions in the “best case scenario”

• Total state campaign contribution pool: $90 million/year

• Unconditional, committed “pro-Israel” campaign contribution pool: $25 million/year
  • Organized, influential

• Estimated best case “hold Israel accountable” campaign contribution pool: $13 million/year
  • Mostly unorganized
  • Hard to communicate with segment
  • Therefore not as influential
The U.S. National Non-Profit Israel Affinity Ecosystem in 2020

Employees: 14,076
Volunteers: 353,337
Revenues: $6.3 Billion
What do the interest group and their economic elite want from a “Deal of the Century” or other deal?

• U.S. acceptance of select Israeli settlement bloc annexation.

• Special U.S. financial support to relocate isolated settlers into annexed areas or inside Green Line.

• U.S. pressure on Europeans and other countries to accept unilateral Israeli move.

• Increase in the so-called “qualitative military edge” (more U.S. military aid) for Israel.
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These slides

https://IRmep.org/PDF/11082019slides.pdf

The Israel Lobby Enters State Government: Rise of the Virginia Israel Advisory Board